CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-9 (canceled).

Claim 10 (currently amended). A method for transmitting data bursts between a sending network node and a receiving network node over a switching device of a data network, comprising:

transmitting a first data burst;

transmitting a reservation request;

transmitting an acknowledgement signal;

wherein the sending network node receives information regarding a blocking time while transmitting the first data burst;

wherein the reservation request and the acknowledgement signal includes information regarding the blocking time by means of a signalling overhead;

waiting for expiration of the blocking time; and

transmitting a second data burst from the sending network node to the receiving network node immediately after expiration of the blocking time.

Claim 11 (previously presented). The method according to claim 10, further comprising transmitting a remaining blocking time of a connection between the sending and receiving nodes to the sending network node.

Claim 12 (previously presented). The method according to claim 11, further comprising transmitting to the sending network node both:

the point in time of the beginning of an available connection or the blocking time until the beginning of the available connection, and

the point in time of the termination of the available connection or the duration of the available connection or a length of time until the end of the available connection are transmitted to the sending network node.

Claim 13 (previously presented). The method according to claim 11, wherein the blocking time and the remaining connection time for a connection are transmitted to the sending network node.

Claim 14 (currently amended). The method according to claim 11, wherein the sending network node sends [[a]] the reservation request via the switching device to the receiving network node.

Claim 15 (previously presented). The method according to claim 14, wherein a desired length of time until a subsequent data burst is sent in the reservation request.

Claim 16 (previously presented). The method according to claim 15, wherein the data burst is transmitted via a plurality of switching devices.

Claim 17 (previously presented). The method according to claim 15, wherein each switching device determines and transmits the longest remaining blocking time to the next switching device or the receiving network node.

Claim 18 (currently amended). The method according to claim 15, wherein during [[an]] <u>the</u> acknowledgement signal the receiving end node sends the remaining time till an available connection to the sending network node via the switching devices and the switching devices reserve the transmission capacity.

Claim 19 (previously presented). The method according to claim 18, wherein the reserved transmission capacity is based on the remaining time information.

Claim 20 (previously presented). The method according to claim 13, wherein the data bursts are transmitted over an optical data network.

Claim 21 (currently amended). A method for transmitting data bursts between a sending network node and a receiving network node over a switching device of a data network, comprising:

transmitting a first data burst;

<u>transmitting a reservation request</u>;

<u>transmitting an acknowledgement signal;</u>

transmitting to the sending network node information including

the point in time of the beginning of an available connection or a blocking time of the existing connection until the beginning of an available connection, and

the point in time of the termination of the available connection or the duration of the available connection or a length of time until the end of the available connection;

wherein the sending network node receives said information regarding the blocking time while transmitting the first data burst;

wherein the reservation request and the acknowledgement signal includes information regarding the blocking time by means of a signalling overhead;

waiting for expiration of the blocking time; and

transmitting a second data burst from the sending network node to the receiving network node immediately after expiration of the blocking time.

Claim 22 (previously presented). The method according to claim 21, wherein the blocking time is the time duration till the next permissible data burst transmission.

Claim 23 (currently amended). A method for transmitting data bursts between a sending network node and a receiving network node over a switching device of a data network, comprising:

transmitting a first data burst;

transmitting a reservation request;

transmitting an acknowledgement signal;

transmitting to the sending network node information containing the point in time of the beginning of an available connection or a remaining blocking time of an existing connection, and the duration of the available connection;

wherein the reservation request and the acknowledgement signal includes information regarding the blocking time by means of a signalling overhead;

wherein the sending network node receives said information regarding the blocking time while transmitting the first data burst;

waiting for expiration of the blocking time; and

then transmitting a second data burst from the sending network node to the receiving network node immediately after expiration of the blocking time.